

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
390 North Robert Street, St. Paul, MN 55101
Phone (651) 602-1000 TDD (651) 291-0904

DATE: October 21, 2009

TO: Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission

FROM: Arne Stefferud, Planning Analyst-Parks (651) 602-1360

SUBJECT: (2009-XXX) North Mississippi Regional Park Grant, Minneapolis Park & Rec. Board

INTRODUCTION

Legislation enacted in 1985 and 1987 requires the Metropolitan Council to grant interest earnings on its park grant accounts towards the acquisition and development of North Mississippi Regional Park. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) has requested a grant of \$425,535 to reimburse the Park Board \$225,535 for its local funding of trail, picnic and parking improvements between 49th and 53rd Avenues North in the park that the Metropolitan Council authorized on January 28, 2009 under agenda item 2009-4; and to provide \$200,000 for design/engineering studies regarding parking, pedestrian/bicycle facilities and additional recreation amenities in the 47th Avenue North area of the park. This development is consistent with the Metropolitan Council–approved master plan. The Council has sufficient interest earnings to finance the grant. (See **Attachment 1**, letter from Andrew Lesch, Mpls. Park & Rec. Board). A map of the park is on **Attachment 2**.

This memorandum contains a review of the request under applicable terms of the legislation.

AUTHORITY TO REVIEW

Laws of Minnesota 1985, First Special Session, Chap. 15, Sec. 5, Subd. 2 (b), plus Laws of Minnesota 1987 Chapter 384, Article 3, Sec. 45, and Laws of Minnesota 1998, Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 3, Sec. 12 direct the Metropolitan Council to establish a separate account of interest it earns on park bonds and to grant funds from that account for the acquisition and development of North Mississippi Regional Park.

BACKGROUND and ANALYSIS:

From 1985 to the present, the Metropolitan Council has authorized 18 grants totaling \$13,901,360 to acquire and develop North Mississippi Regional Park in accordance with the legislation cited above. Of this amount \$12,701,360 is interest earnings on bonds issued by the Council for regional park capital improvements. Details on the grants awarded for the park are shown in **Attachment 3**.

In 1998 the Legislature expanded the boundary of North Mississippi Regional Park to include a trail segment along 49th Avenue. The trail portion extends approximately one-mile west of the main park to Humboldt Avenue and Shingle Creek. In 2003 the Metropolitan Council approved an amended master plan for North Mississippi Regional Park to include trail development along 49th Avenue consistent with the legislation.

In 2002 the MPRB proposed additional future development projects for North Mississippi Regional Park that were estimated to cost \$3,260,000 at that time. Details of the projects and what has been funded for some of those projects are shown on **Attachment 4**. Discussions with legislators to cap the open ended appropriation for this park were conducted. Since the actual costs for the additional improvements would be dependent on future inflationary factors there was no support for proposing a cap in the amount that could be granted for the park.

In January 2009, the Metropolitan Council approved consideration of reimbursement of up to \$300,000 to the MPRB to add a dock, restroom, picnic shelter, pavement and site improvements at the Camden Boat Launch in North Mississippi Regional Park when that amount of interest had been earned on the Council's park bonds in accordance with State law (Agenda item 2009-4). That work is nearing completion at a cost of \$225,535. The MPRB would like to be reimbursed for that expense plus obtain \$200,000 for design/engineering studies regarding parking, pedestrian/bicycle facilities and additional recreation amenities in the 47th Avenue North area of the park. This proposed development is consistent with the Metropolitan Council-approved master plan.

CONCLUSIONS

1. State law requires the Metropolitan Council to spend the interest it earns on park capital improvement bonds for the acquisition and development of North Mississippi Regional Park.
2. The requested reimbursement of \$225,535 is consistent with the Council's action under agenda item 2009-4. The additional \$200,000 is available in Council interest earnings to finance design/engineering studies regarding parking, pedestrian-bicycle facilities and additional recreation amenities in the 47th Avenue North area of the park as called for in the Metropolitan Council-approved master plan.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Metropolitan Council authorize a grant of \$425,535 comprised of interest earnings on park grant accounts to the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board for the following purposes:

--\$225,535 to reimburse the Park Board for local funding of trail, picnic and parking area improvements in the 49th Avenue to 53rd Avenue North section of North Mississippi Regional Park.

--\$200,000 to finance design/engineering studies regarding parking, pedestrian-bicycle facilities and additional recreation amenities in the 47th Avenue North area of North Mississippi Regional Park as called for in the Metropolitan Council-approved master plan.

Attachment 1: Letter from Andrew Lesch, Minneapolis Park & Rec. Bd.



Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Administrative Offices
2117 West River Road
Minneapolis, MN 55411-2227
Phone: 612-230-6400
Fax: 612-230-6500

Operations Center
3800 Bryant Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55409-1000
Phone: 612-370-4900
Fax: 612-370-4831

President
Tom Nordyke

Vice President
Mary Merrill Anderson

Commissioners
Walt Dziedzic
Bob Fine
Carol A. Kummer
Tracy Nordstrom
Jon C. Olson
Scott Vreeland
Annie Young

Superintendent
Jon R. Gurban

Secretary to the Board
Don Siggelkow

www.minneapolisparcs.org

Equal Opportunity Provider of
Leisure and Recreational Services

October 14, 2009

Mr. Arne Stefferud
Metropolitan Council
390 North Robert St.
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: North Mississippi Park Trails and Trails and Parking 49th Ave. N. to 53rd Ave. N and Boat Launch Area 42nd Ave Camden Bridge to 49th Ave N.

Dear Arne:

As per your e-mail dated 3-23-09, I understand \$425,535 in the North Mississippi Fund (Council Interest Earnings) is now available for a new grant. I request, therefore, a new grant in the amount of \$425,535 with a 3 year term for use in North Mississippi Park. The requested grant time period would be from January 30, 2009 thru January 30, 2012.

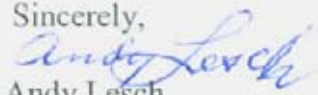
The funds are to be used for re-imbusement of trail, picnic and parking improvements from 49th Ave. N. to 53rd Avenue North. The project has a re-imbusement agreement approved by the Metropolitan Council on January 28, 2009. The agreement was in response to my request dated 11-24-2008 to cover additional costs to the project to maximize the project outcome in the area from 49th Ave North to 53rd Ave North. The request stated additionally, as funds permit, toilet and picnic facilities would be added at the Camden boat launch area at the 42nd Ave.

We estimate about \$225,535 in funds are needed for the re-imbusement of the project nearing completion. The balance of \$200,000 would be available to prepare a study for the next phase from the Camden Boat Launch area @42nd Ave to 49th Ave. North. More specifically our study project would address circulation for parking, pedestrians, and bicyclists, and additional recreation opportunities in the 47th Avenue North area. As the park has seen growth in usage, additional parking, looped drives, outdoor gathering spaces, restrooms, shelters, and landscaping would enhance the publics' enjoyment of the regional park.

These improvements are consistent with the Master Plan suggested development Action items. Action 6 states "Construct a hike bike trail from 53rd Ave to the Camden Bridge". Action 7. states "Develop a park entrance at 49th Ave. and a recreational node between the 47th Avenue and 51st Avenue areas" (parking, restrooms, a picnic area shelter, open play area, and shoreline fishing). Action 9 states "Upgrade and improve boat access south of Camden Bridge".

Should you need additional grant information please feel free to contact me at 612-230-6438.

Sincerely,



Andy Lesch

RLA , Park & Recreation Planner

Attachment 2: Map of North Mississippi Regional Park



Attachment 3: List of Grants awarded to North Mississippi Regional Park as of October 2009

Grant No.	Grant Amount	Grant Source		Grant Description
		State bonds & LCMR funds	Metro. Council grant interest earnings	
SG-87-143	\$ 4,840,755	\$ 500,000	\$ 4,340,755	Land acquisition on west bank of river in Minneapolis
AG-88-32	\$ 200,000		\$ 200,000	Land acquisition on east bank of river north of Camden Bridge
AG-88-2	\$ 700,000		\$ 700,000	Land acquisition on west bank of river in Brooklyn Center
AG-92-7	\$ 125,000		\$ 125,000	Develop trail from northern edge of park on east bank of river south to intersection of East River Road and 37th Ave. E. in Fridley
AG-93-13	\$ 317,500		\$ 317,500	To acquire land in Brooklyn Center portion of the park
SG-94-36	\$ 138,334		\$ 138,334	Match to \$160,000 ISTE A grant for trail development from intersection of East River Road and 37th Ave. E. south to the Camden bridge and south of the bridge to link with existing MPRB trails along St. Anthony Parkway.
AG-94-1	\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000	Repair existing access road, connect existing trails with boat launch area, develop picnic area and develop 2,000 feet of hike/bike paths north of Camden bridge.
SG-94-66	\$ 553,976		\$ 553,976	Trail development between 53rd Ave. and Camden bridge, park entrance at 49th Ave., a recreational node between 47th Ave. and 51st Ave., upgrade and improve boat launch south of Camden bridge.
SG-94-77	\$ 180,181		\$ 180,181	Acquire final seven parcels in Brooklyn Center
SG-99-14	\$ 50,000		\$ 50,000	Cover extra costs required by MN DOT for spending a \$300,000 State of MN appropriation and \$291,000 ISTE A grant for trail development in Brooklyn Center portion of park.
SG-97-262	\$ 2,750,000		\$ 2,750,000	Creative play/totlot, wading pool, trails, picnic shelter, restrooms, park roads and parking area plus related utilities and landscaping between 47th Ave. and 51st Ave.

Grant No.	Grant Amount	Grant Source		Grant Description
		State bonds & LCMR funds	Metro. Council grant interest earnings	
SG-99-127	\$ 882,453		\$ 882,453	Partial financing for visitor interpretive/historic center
SG-02-147	\$ 1,228,038	\$ 342,000	\$ 886,038	Finance remainder of visitor interpretive/historic center
SG-03-090	\$ 528,000	\$ 358,000	\$ 170,000	Develop bike and pedestrian trail system between park entrance near Lyndale Avenue extending westerly to Humboldt Ave. along 49th Ave. North.
SG-05-21	\$ 150,000		\$ 150,000	Partial reimbursement to Hennepin County for developing trails along 49 th Avenue North.
SG-2006-149	\$ 154,000		\$ 154,000	Complete reimbursement to Hennepin County for trails along 49 th Avenue (\$72,000) and begin parking and trail improvements between 49 th and 51 st Avenues (\$82,000)
SG-2007-98	\$ 348,825		\$ 348,825	Continue parking and trail improvements between 49 th and 51 st Avenues, and extend separated bike path that currently ends in the picnic shelter area and add open air picnic shelters.
SG-2008-049	\$ 654,298	\$ 0	\$ 654,298	Continue project described in grant SG-2007-98 above, plus if funds permit construct restroom and picnic facilities at the boat launch area located at 42 nd Ave. /Camden Bridge. (Approved May 28, 2008)
Total approved as of Oct. 2009	\$ 13,901,360	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 12,701,360	

Attachment 4: Details of North Mississippi Regional Park projects yet to be completed as of October 2009 (2002 estimate data)

Grant No.	Grant Amount	Grant Source		Grant Description
		State bonds & LCMR funds	Metro. Council grant interest earnings	
SG-2008-049	\$ 875,000 (Note: \$460,123 from grant SG-2008-049 is financing a portion of this project)		\$ 875,000	Open air picnic shelter, toilet building, drinking fountains, lighting, signage, site furnishings, landscaping and modify parking as needed near Camden boat launch at southern border of the park.
SG-2006-149 SG-2007-99 SG-2008-049	\$ 625,000 (Note: \$82,000 from grant SG-2006-, plus; \$348,825 from grant SG-2007 granted in 2007- and \$194,175 from grant SG-2008-049 finance this project)		\$ 625,000	Remove old streets, curbs, invasive plants, regrading and relocation of soil/rubble stock piles, plus develop wet pot hole and dry native prairie (3 acres), boardwalk observation decks for outdoor nature interpretation, plus bike paths, walk paths, lighting and open play turf area (1.5 acres) for picnics between 51st and 49th Ave. North (adjacent to visitor interpretive/historic center)
Proposed	\$ 960,000		\$ 960,000	Develop a "prairie picnic shelter" with a live plant roof, fireplace and roll-up doors for year-round recreation and outdoor programming use. Add lighting and parking and bike/ped paths around Interpretive Center. All work located between 49th and 45th Avenues North.
Proposed	\$ 800,000		\$ 800,000	Develop new parking area from old North Mississippi Drive, bike path, sidewalks, shade structure for wading pool, heating and insulation, ventilation, mechanical systems for maintenance storage building and toilet/concessions building located between 53rd and 51st Avenues North.
Total of proposed funding (not funded from grants shown above)	\$ 2,174,877	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 2,174,877	
Total granted and proposed	\$ 16,076,237	\$ 1,200,000	\$ 14,876,237	